

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FY2008 BUDGET)**

April 16, 2007

6:00 PM

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

Mayor Guinta called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Thibault.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll. There were fourteen Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Long, Duval, Osborne, Pinard, O’Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault, Forest.

Mayor Guinta advised that the purpose of the special meeting is a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed Fiscal Year 2008 municipal budget, the proposed Community Improvement Program for the Fiscal Year 2008 to 2014 period in accordance with the procedures established in RSA 44:10, and in satisfaction of any other local, state or federal law that may apply. Mayor Guinta notes that the Clerk shall present the resolutions, the subject of which contain all of the appropriations presented proposed, following which a brief presentation may be made and public comments will be heard.

The Clerk presented the proposed Resolutions:

“A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester, New Hampshire Airport Authority the sum of \$58,865,030 from Special Airport Revenue Funds for Fiscal Year 2008.”

“A Resolution appropriating the sum of \$15,007,892 from Sewer User Rental Charges to the Environmental Protection Division for Fiscal Year 2008.”

“A Resolution appropriating to the Parking Fund the sum of \$5,299,591 from Parking for the Fiscal Year 2008.”

“A Resolution appropriating the sum of \$2,253,110 from Recreation User Charges to the Recreation Division for Fiscal Year 2008.”

“A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester, New Hampshire Transit Authority the sum of \$1,176,714 for the Fiscal Year 2008.”

“A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester, New Hampshire School District the sum of \$147,250,000 for the Fiscal Year 2008.”

“A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester, New Hampshire School Food and Nutrition Services Program the sum of \$5,898,950 from School Food and Nutrition Services Revenues for Fiscal Year 2008.”

“Raising Monies and Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2008.”

“Approving the Community Improvement Program for 2008, Raising and Appropriating Monies Therefore, and Authorizing Implementation of Said Program.”

“Appropriating all Incremental Meals and Rooms Tax Revenue Received by the City in Fiscal Year 2008 and held in the Civic Center Fund, for the payment of the City’s Obligations in Said Fiscal Year Under the Financing Agreement.”

“A Resolution appropriating to the Central Business Service District the sum of \$244,000 from Central Business Service District Funds for Fiscal Year 2008.”

“Continuation of the Central Business Service District.”

Mayor Guinta advised that the meeting shall be open to public comments; that each person when recognized shall come to the nearest microphone, state their name and address in a clear and loud voice for the record; that each person shall be given one opportunity to speak and comments shall be limited to three minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak; that once all present have been allowed to speak should there be a topic not discussed those wishing to speak a second time shall be provided the opportunity to do so.

Christine Martin, 518 Holly Ave., Manchester, New Hampshire (re: school) stated:

Good Evening ladies and gentlemen, in Ward seven almost in Alderman Shea’s back yard for that matter. Let be perfectly clear this evening, I represent no one but myself a taxpayer in the city of Manchester, New Hampshire and life long resident of the city of Manchester, New Hampshire. A product of the Manchester, New Hampshire Public Schools from kindergarten through grade twelve. A graduate of the University of New Hampshire. Bachelors Degree, Master Degree and now in the certificate advance graduate studies program. In front of you, see a product of the school district, who chooses to live here own home here and serve the children of this committee. I’m not going anywhere because I value what we offer kids here in Manchester, New Hampshire. I have a couple of reasons to speak to you tonight. The mayors proposed budget is very different than the one hundred and fifty million budget the Board of School Committee unanimously has approved. Good and reasonable people looking at the differences three point three plus million dollars would say hmm things would have to be done in order to make those numbers work. Good and reasonable people would say, we’re a district in need of improvement and so we need to protect the three R’s classroom teachers and classroom activities. I would support that, however, my concerns are for a program that I have been a part of since I was in the fifth grade. Beyond the loving care of my wonderful parents the experiences in the Manchester, New Hampshire Schools District Music Program have made me the individual I am today. I would never have gone to College I had a scholarship to go to college because of my experiences here. I started playing in the band in the beginning band program in our pull out program in our Elementary Schools. It is just, you know, I use myself as an example because I’m easy I’m an easy example. I’m a picture of what our kids look like. Our kids go off and become doctors and lawyers and many other things, not just music teachers or school administrators. I’m very concerned about the difference between the Mayors proposed

Budget and the Board of School Committees Budget. I would say about the management of the School Districts budget, based on of what I see as a taxpayer in this community. I see Board of School Committee that is very careful about what the School District spends, how the money is appropriated. And I would encourage you to empower the Board of School Committee by voting for their one hundred and fifty million dollar budget. Please, Please, Please ladies and gentlemen I don't how to say except to beg. Please don't let programs that have been so successful in our School District, go back several years because of a lack of funding. My business card, by the way, that handout, is of no cost to the taxpayer comes right out of the Chris Martin retirement fund. Please feel free to e-mail or call I am willing to work with any one of you. Thank You.

Bethany Jones, 160 Gingras Ave., Manchester, New Hampshire (re: School) stated:

I am a junior at Central High School, I was born in Manchester, New Hampshire, and it has been my place of education my entire life. When I was in elementary school I began to learn about different things that life could offer. It was here that I was first introduced to the world of music. My music teacher showed us pictures of different instruments and was then that I knew I wanted to be a musician. I began playing the clarinet and with helpful lessons from Mr. Russell, who is my music teacher as well today. I learned to love playing the different kinds of music. When I graduated Webster School, I went off to Hillside Junior High, I stayed in band and began to see and learn about other sorts of instruments. It was there in sixth grade that I learned about the bassoon and decided to switch to that instrument that I still in fact play at Central. I have to admit though, Central is very big, that first day at band camp when I went to Freshman Year. I met all of the upper classmen and new instructors, though I was quite nervous I truly ended up loving it. So the point of my story is not give you an autobiography, but tell each and everyone of you just how important music is to me. Because I have been in the music for so long I have able to learn rhythms and others sorts of information which has helped me in other classes such as math and helped be in my dance class that I take. I like to remember the first time going to a Central football game, we all got to run out and play the half time show with all the fans turning us on. But you know if the budget does go through this is what you will hear instead "nothing". I remember my first time playing in a parade marching through the streets of Manchester, New Hampshire, Mayor Guinta and other Aldermen, I have seen you there clapping for our school. But if the budget goes through this is what you will hear instead "nothing" Band and the music department have become very important pieces of my life. I have become head of the uniform crew, and all the work the band and the music department does for the community, has helped me not only to feel fortunate inside, but it has even helped me get in to Honor Society in my school. What I love so much about the music department is not only the teachers that make it fun, as well as the fun events but it is mainly the kids. Had it not been here I would not have met the group of friends that I have made and are still friends with to this day. It is real important to me because is what makes Central more fun for me and do not know what I would do without it. I read somewhere that according to two thousand surveyed eighty on percent of people responding believe that participating in school music

corresponds with better grades and test scores. I encourage all to really think about this decision and what effect it just might have. Music is a necessity not only for me and the kids at Central, but for the entire community. Thank you very much.

Lorraine Farrell, 11 Sterling Ave., Hooksett (re: school) stated:

I was a former taxpayer in Manchester, New Hampshire for twenty years but now I pay tuition and taxes for attendance at Central High School, and that is why I'm speaking tonight. Music education has had a deep impact on my family's life. My three children have been involved in music education on some level and it truly benefited from instructions as well as the experience. In particular music has had the greatest impact on my son, Kevin. Kevin is a junior at Central and plans to major in music performance. more specifically Contemporary Jazz. As a freshman, Kevin didn't quite see where music could take him, but Mr. Sterling saw a little talent and a little bit of a performer in him. Put forth viperphone mallets in his hands and placed him in the Jazz band. Since that moment Kevin has truly blossomed as a viperphonist, and for of you who do not know what a viperphone is think xylophone with metal keys on steroids. Anyway, Kevin would not have had introduction to that instrument if it had been for the public school system, and their ability to provide these instruments to these students. Kevin has been a wonderful student in music has been all state music festival participant and honors all state Jazz participant and honors all state music conference participant which is quite an honor. Speaking from a parent but there is no discrimination in a music class. There is no race or religious discrimination and there is no age and gender bias. Freshmen, sophomore, Junior and seniors work together towards a common goal. Every student works together day after day week after week month after month and year and after year, all to make music. But while they're making music they work towards a process of achieving goals. Students break down the process into manageable increments, and then they follow those steps to work toward their goals. They face challenges and in spite of the challenges students still create a beautiful sound. And the result of that instruction is much more beautiful than the music that these students create. These students are focused they're driven, they're driven to exceed. They develop good habits and a great work ethic that will help them throughout their lives. This isn't about making music this about living day to day developing skills that will help these students last through a lifetime. Please support the one hundred and fifty million for the School Department. Thank you.

Kevin Farrell, 11 Sterling Ave. Hooksett (re: school) stated:

I'm a Junior at Central High School and I'm here to talk to you about not cutting the Central School budget by three million dollars. I ask you this because I am a current student who thoroughly enjoys music and band. I can tell you that music has helped me through out my high school career socially and academically. The school band has always put me in situation where I had meet and interact with new people. Since the first day of band in the fourth grade all the way to my recent all recent state where the most profound privilege to play with some of the most greatest and most talented unit in the East Coast. I now have

friends who have known since the fourth grade and some who live in Rhode Island, New York and Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Connecticut to name a few. All these people and I share a common interest that unites us together “Music”. If were not for the musical studies that I have enjoyed in elementary, middle and high school I would never had the opportunity to meet these wonderful people and create beautiful music with them. In addition to the social network that music has provided it is aided me academically, because of the attention to detail needed in any musical situation, I have been able to translate that into the classroom and focus on my work. In coming years music will be the focus of my college years as plan to go to school for music, and I can tell you at the fundamentals that I learned back at the fourth grade with Mr. Russell will still be with me. And I know there isn’t a day in my life where I don’t thank music for amazing opportunity that it will enfold in my future. Music has severally impacted my life for the better, right now I ask everyone and or everyone in the room included the Board and the Mayor to raised their hand if they ever played an instrument or ever sung in the chorus in your youth. Thank you. Clearly music has impacted their lives and if you want to continue the fine traditions of music that we all love so dearly reconsider your actions about the school budget. Thank you

Ellen Healy, 22 Reynolds Ave., Manchester, New Hampshire (re: School) stated:

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. A thriving community needs to provide the citizens with a strong Police and Fire Department with clean streets both winter and summer. With parks and swimming pools for people to enjoy during all times of the year, and guess what else? Clean safe schools. A difference of three point three million dollars between the Mayors budget and the School District Budget, would mean the difference between children choosing to stay in school or drop out of school, because many programs maybe eliminated. One of the biggest programs we have in our schools that keep kids in school both during school and after school, phys Ed, art and music. Art, music and phys Ed are universal languages. We have many students from various parts of the world who come to school in find common ground by studying art and music. One of the other differences that three point three million dollars will do, is to provide children with a strong learning environment a commitment from teachers who care about their students who take the time to know their students. Three point three point million dollars means the difference between lowering the drop out rate that is currently is at almost twenty percent if not higher. In lowering it to a more manageable number. In providing these students with a future opportunity to stay in the community and become a thriving part of Manchester, New Hampshire. Three point three million dollars is not much to expect our students have improved in their test scores which is vitally important. Our students are doing well academically our teachers are taking the time to learn new methodologies to provide the important aspects, so that the students will do better in their test scores and to keep them in school. Ladies and gentlemen, one of the most important things that you can do as members of the Board of Aldermen is to insure that the children who are the future of the school remain in school. Three point three million dollars is nothing compared to hundreds and millions of dollars that you recently spent in school renovations with the design build project. Three point three million dollars will

insure that the schools become totally in disrepair in a very short period of time because maintenance will be lowered. It would be shame to see the wonderful work that has been done in renovating our schools go to waste if you lower the budget. Please reconsider the Mayors budget so that you can raise by the three point three million as proposed unanimously by the Board of School Committee. Thank you.

Scott McGilvray, 19 Winter Drive, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: School) stated:
 President Elect of Manchester, New Hampshire Education Association. I come to you tonight to speak about the budget, I encourage you to support the unanimous decision by the school board and their budget and not take the three point three million dollar cut proposed by the Mayor. I'm afraid that this budget is going to leave children behind in the city and the impact the ramifications of the proposed budget will greatly affect and be felt by the students. COR programs will be affected direct instruction will be affected, as soon as you add numbers of students to classrooms. I currently teach five classes at Memorial High School all of them are in excess of thirty one students. How many more kids can you put in a classroom, and expect us to have one on one direct instructions. The lower kids need more one on one time, you put more kids in there it becomes increasingly more difficult to give those students that one on one instruction that they so very much need. The effects will not just be felt by those kids but also by upper level kids. Programs such as level four classes AP classes that look to be cut in this proposed budget a cut in it's gifted and talented that we have in our schools, are going to be affected and be cut. I applaud the effort in the City to keep the streets safe, and certainly has been a great effort by all of you, but, what are going to do when more kids are out on the streets? If you cut the arts and you cut the music programs and you cut athletics and lower direct one on one instructions, kids are going to be out on the street. Kids are going to drop out, kids are not going to have a place to go. We've all learned lessons by playing an instrument or being on an athletic team or having a one on one relationship that we felt from a teacher, and we lower those chances and opportunity for those kids it certainly is going to have an effect on them. The bottom line is I speak on behalf of the teachers, is that teachers make a difference in kids lives. We teach because somebody in teaching made an effect on our lives and we decided enter into this profession. We get that done through coaching through the arts through music and I really am afraid that this affect of this budget with the cut of three point three million dollars from the school budget will greatly be felt by the kids of Manchester, New Hampshire. The teachers are going to continue to teach but we're going to have higher drop out rate and the kids are going not feel the connection that they need to feel. We encourage you to support the School Districts budget and not put the burden back onto the backs of the kids. Thank you very much.

John Baron, 44 Hall Street, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: Highways) stated:
 Good evening. I believe in going in the wrong direction with his budget. Cuts the School Department, basically hurt the future of our kids. They're the future, they're what we're here for, the kids. Also, cuts in the Highway Department are also ill advised. Look at what we

get for the little money spent, trash pickup snow removal, city improvements. It seems like the Police always get their manpower their work force, the Fire Department always get their new trucks. The city is growing and seem like the Highway Department budget seems to be getting smaller and smaller every year. Please look at what you get for the money spent and please don't vote for what the Highway Departments budget is, go a little higher, give a little the manpower we need to continue to clean the streets plow the streets and pick up the trash. Thank you.

Dan Garrity, 341 Whitney Ave Manchester, New Hampshire (re: Highway) stated:

First of all I would like to say MCTV is a great thing, I was able to watch you all on that highway budget hearing and happen to see a lot of positive action going on. But we'll start with some issues at the Highway Department at the moment sandbags are available for anyone who has water in their basement. Many people in Manchester, New Hampshire at this time do. A lot of them have sewerage water. The sewer lines in this city are over one hundred years old in many places it's a serious issue with a lot of people. We have people out there trying to alleviate that problem. Garbage, garbage men still make house calls. Hardest workers in the city and the least paid. Snow plowing, something that I do myself, being an employee at the Highway Department, I have been doing it for a long time. I know where to get before the accident starts, if I can get there in time. If I have been dispatched to an area, of course we need dispatchers to do that. The crew's have gotten smaller over the years we're asked to work longer hours it's creating a safety hazard for the drivers along with the conditions on the roads. You know, this goes on with the schools. The sidewalks leading to the schools, the school bus stops need to be plowed, the school yards need to be plowed, if they're not done as soon after the storm if they wait a day or two, it freezes and it harder to move. Parks and Recs being affected with this, they plow the schoolyards as you probably well know. I asked you is snow plowing not any central service? Cuts at Parks and Recs I just happen to have some experience with lifeguards, I have two daughters who were lifeguards. I read in the paper that they were going to cut lifeguards out of Crystal Lake. We'll I called my daughter at UNH today she made four rescues in the past three years. Three at Crystal Lake and one at Livingston. Even the best swimmer can run into trouble. The school budget cuts, arts and music programs I've had three daughters that completed the school system in Manchester, New Hampshire and have moved on to higher education. The sixteen-year-old needs ways to express himself, I leave at that. The budget for the Highway Department if raised six hundred thousand dollars would affect the tax rate by twelve cents. A home valued at three hundred thousand dollars would cost you three hundred and seventy five dollars of your taxes would go to the services the Highway Department provides, this includes street lighting and many other services. As elected officials I hold you responsible, directly responsible. Thank you for your time.

Maxine Mosley, 76 Sherburne Street Manchester, New Hampshire (re: School) stated:

Good evening. Yes I am a member of a very large special interest group, the children of Manchester, New Hampshire. But I would like to start off by saying Mr. Mayor to you

specifically, is I feel that I am at a shot gun wedding, where only certain persons are invited to attend the wedding and it's run by dad. This public session has generally been held at a forum that has allowed as many citizens in the city to attend and to speak. I have sent e-mails to many persons on this board. Thank you very much for those who opened the e-mail or who responded to the e-mail, some of you deleted them before you opened them. Did you know in your e-mail you can put that tab, which lets us know that. The citizens of this community deserve a right and deserve to be respected to speak their mind. You work for us, it's not the other way around, the children of this city are not taxpayers yet, they're not voters yet, but they are our most precious commodities. I have been a public school councilor since nineteen eighty and I have seen the face of our children change dramatically. I have never worked as hard as have in the last few years. This is a large urban setting, this is not Bedford, New Hampshire Amherst, Salem, we're an urban setting. Our kids and our families have a whole host of issues that are not going away because we want them to. I don't want money thrown at public education, I want for the educational system to have what it needs to help our children to enter adult hood as responsible, respectable, reliable members of our community. I cannot tell you how many students will refuse to even consider being an educator as their career. My own daughter, who is at Keene State, started off as an education major and has watched what's happened in this community to the educational system. Has switched out of education because she would never allow herself to be treated with such disrespect that she sees the education system being treated with here. Mr. Mayor, I can't say to you and I can't say to the board, "what's the right amount of money"? The budget is not determined by one person and this board is based on the information of people that were hired to do their job, please listen to them, they do know what they're doing, they're giving you a frivolous budget it's very, very sound. Thank you very much.

Jane Beaulieu, 609 So. Main Street Manchester, New Hampshire (re:

Parks/Planning/environment) stated:

Thank you. Good evening. I'm environmental and agriculture representing the West Side of Manchester, New Hampshire. I have a different way to approaching this budget process, but if the, and perhaps I would have been able to be included in some conversations if the Mayor had returned phone calls when I did I tried to phone him in the last year. What I would like to talk about is energy conservation. There is certainly a way we can reduce the amount of money we spend on energy, on gas on electricity. I certainly would advise energy audits and also higher sustainability director. I was reading the newspaper on April 15th, Sunday News, the Mayor did make a statement and he is quoted in the newspaper in regards to his second term campaign speech, and included the statement this the best job I have ever had because I don't feel that this is a job. Well, Mr. Mayor, I think maybe you should get to work and if you don't think it's a job perhaps you can donate your salary to hiring maybe stability director. In reviewing all of the departments, their bottom line, the budget they brought forward and the budget that you have proposed. I noticed that the Parking Department, the parking fund, or the Parking Department is receiving almost twice as much money as the Parks Department. Now that I really don't really think that we should be spending more

money on parking department than we are Parks and Recreation. Also I have been in and out of the Planning Department for the last twenty years and there is one person in the Planning Department that is at the front desk, she has retired and her name is, Caroline Michaud. I hear that her position has not being funded and what she, what her job, one of her job responsibilities is to type out minutes of their Planning Department meetings, and I hear that tapes are available but minutes will not be available, which I believe its unconstitutional. Also, Alison Baker has left that master plan drafter and I don't know where that is, but I hope we do have money in the budget to hire somebody to finish that master plan. Again I would like the Mayor and the Aldermen to reconsider the budget proposal, and also I do want to make note you did sign on to the US Mayor's planet protection agreement and you have not done anything to perceive with that agreement, and that was one year ago. So again, I think we should take a look at the way we conduct business around here and perhaps include everyone in the process. Thank you.

Edward Doyle, 396 Laurel Street, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: School) stated:

I want to talk to today about conservatism. If you want to know how to achieve wonders with limited resources ask any Manchester, New Hampshire teacher. And it was in that conservative spirit that the School Board recently approved a budget that was extremely conservative, yet it preserved the programs that make the city great. The possibility of cuts would not be part of this conversation if the School Boards budget had requests had been fulfilled. Say yes, cuts will be necessary and there is no way around it, not to minimize the effects this budget will have in areas such as athletics, transportation, highway the points that are most concerning to me, I am a music teacher, music education. Elementary music in fact, the impacts on such cuts will quickly have dramatic impacts on older music students too. Now, if you are looking for that thing that enhances learning teachers cooperation, sensitivity, training, mind expansion expression, its called music, and that something is important. So we need to take the greatness that the city has already established, like music and build on it. That is a conservative policy. And, to give you an example how conservative this budget is, Karen DeFrancis, sat in on the staff last Monday saying that this year they budgeted new hires allowed with three year experience, in the past they would use five year experience. So would rather all the replacements for the one hundred and seventeen retirees be fresh out of college? This is a bare bone budget. Truly we are all here because of dollars and cents and there are those who don't think that their beloved departments are being funded properly and those who are excited about the thought of a tax cut. But since the average savings will be about twenty dollars per house, six cents a day, which looks like this the logic of that argument is completely lost on me. I thought that this was a city that cared about their neighbors. So talk about keeping our streets safe, I know for an instance was one of the ones broken into right before Christmas. That would happen on a Friday afternoon and based on what they stole the perpetrators were probably teenagers that were suspended or dropped out. So they should have been in School on that Friday afternoon. It's wrong to say that we need to decide between programs that help our kids or fight crime in the streets. Helping our schools is fighting crime on our streets, so pass the Mayor's budget,

it's pay now or pay later, Is that conservative? The money spent on hiring new cops would be ineffective is that a conservative policy? Tomorrow I sure the board you guys will say that even though they may very well pass the Mayor's what, I feel is inadequate budget, is not your fault, it's the School Boards fault that things are going to be cut, it's Mike Ludwell's fault, it's Karen Francis' fault. If that's your line, it's not responsible it's not mature and certainly not conservative. Thank you.

Rob Nordgren 1245 Elm Street, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: Manchester, New Hampshire Child Health Services) stated:

Good evening, Mister Mayor and Alderman. I'm executive director of Child Health services here in Manchester, New Hampshire. First of all I want to thank you for the support that Child Health Services has received over the years for our operations, we serve in our main program over twelve hundred children every year. Over sixty percent of those kids have no transportation forty percent and growing numbers of those don't speak English, they need interpretations. Most of those kids will be going to the emergency room without our program. We need to keep kids in Manchester, New Hampshire out of the emergency room and in regular doctors offices, that's good for their health and its good economic policy as well, it's cheaper to fund us than emergency room. The proposed budget decreases our operational support by eighteen thousand dollars, and we are requesting that the Board of Alderman restore to level funding as you consider this budget. I had the opportunity to speak to some of the Aldermen last week, there is also an appropriation in the propose budget for us to receive the one time loan or grant funds to do capital improvements. We are doing capital improvements so we can serve more kids, and as I have indicated to those Aldermen a decrease there but an increase back to level funding for operations would be perfectly acceptable to us. Our operational support is critical. We run a very, very tight budget, and eighteen thousand dollars means at least half a position or a position for us its real services. We don't have many frills in our budget the money that we receive from the city and several other sources goes straight to services for kids and we're simply requesting level funding for operations. Thank you very much.

Mary Barry 235 Villa Street, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: School) stated:

Good evening. I have heard eloquent speakers tonight and I can only hope that you take their words and remember them, as a teacher that is what we do. We present something we review it and then we repeat it, until it hits home. I'm closing in on thirty years experience as a teacher, I've seen many administrators many budget worries many curriculum reviews and changes. And unfortunately what I'm also seeing again is the look of disillusionment and frustration on the best and brightest new teachers coming through our building. When they're faced with these types of cuts. You don't teach the whole child through the unified arts its unfortunate thing to miss. They need a well-balanced education. And truly you talk to any music teacher, there is nothing more mathematical than the analysis of music. We also can't miss our opportunity to teach the respect and the quality of these opportunities...

It's unfortunate this meeting was not held at Memorial to give more public access, it sends the message, the opinions don't matter, but these were opinions that probably helped to elect you folks, and they are being disregarded when they need you the most. As a kindergarten teacher I'll talk about a rumor I've heard returning to half-day kindergarten. We worked long and hard to get a full day program. And I can tell you first hand you walked by my room one time if you remember, Mr. Mayor, it helped us get the wall to ParkerVarney. And we teach the whole child there. And in the full day program we have made incredible strides in language arts and math skills development. That is where it has to begin if we are going to make any work yearly progress and not become consistently a school district in need of improvement. I just hope you do the right thing and these choices are hard, we all understand that, but they're going to impact the entire city for decades to come. Thank you.

Jim Krolikowski, Memorial High School Manchester, New Hampshire (re: MCTV) stated:
Good evening. I am a teacher at Memorial High School. I'm not here to talk about the school budget, there has been plenty of great speakers for that. I am here to talk about the connection I have made over the last few years with MCTV and Dr. Grace Sullivan, and it comes to my attention now that she is need for a new facility for this great resource. Last few years I've hooked up with her plugging in students, to interview presidential candidates conducting mayoral debates, interview governors, and I will tell you in my thirty three years of teaching this is one of the greatest experiences that I've had with kids in getting them in the outside real world. It's just an extended experience for them and I'm just hoping that'll it continue. Grace and I have talked a lot about expanding this, we do it at Memorial and at MCTV because of the proximity of the Schools, but we would like to extend it to the other high schools as well and get other kids involved in this. It just brings kids closer to government, history and all of the other arts and that. And I really feel that we have some plans for a live connects at other schools and models for other districts and that. It really gives an empowerment to the kids who actual go out and meet these real people that we only see on TV. I was talking with one of my students who had interviewed Governor Lynch and he was just saying, just as I was giving him questions he, I was just started in thinking about the answer myself, I could be in that position too. It's very rare that you can actually have kid put in that position that learning experience. So, I beseech you both all of you I should say to fund the new facility for MVTV so we can expand the educational opportunity for the kids in this city of ours. Thank you very much.

Vicki Kress, 159 Morgan Street, Manchester, New Hampshire, New Hampshire (re: Child and family services) stated:

I work at Child and Health Services, I am the director of administration there, and I work with the budget on a daily basis, hourly basis pretty much. I'm here to reiterate what Rob just said, that you restore our operational funding back to level funding if you would be so kind. Thank you.

Greg Salts, 23 Penacook Street, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: supports budget) stated:

Mayor Guinta. Board of Aldermen. I have to watch when I get out of here because I will be speaking in favor of this budget. One point five million dollar increase to the school budget, there is no cut to the school budget, nod your head if I'm right, no cut. I had a thirty-percent increase in my property tax. These Aldermen knew or should have known that there was a re-valve last year, and instead of supporting the Mayor Guinta's tax cut with the support of the edgy hax the school Department, you ramroded through a tax increase. All this baloney about music being taken away from the schools is one of the most embarrassing scare tactics I have ever seen. These kids are getting one point five million dollars more, and I I don't blame Mayor Guinta for my property tax increase, in part it has a lot to do with the State legislature, what's going up out there, and what not. But, this board should have anticipated a precipitous fight if property taxes and there are a lot of angry taxpayers out there. I think we are losing one hundred teachers. I personally would not hire any more. We are losing all these kids from Bedford, and all these teachers are coming up here or these edgy ax, excuse me I don't mean to be disrespectful, a lot of teachers are very, I'm not talking about the teachers I'm talking about the administration. The upper level of people who are scaring the children and scaring the teachers. I work two hundred and fifty days a year between twenty hundred and twenty five hundreds hours a year. These teachers can do the math, they come nowhere close to that. I take my work home at night in the form of aches and pains, I take my work home with me. You know what I did not comment when you guys were speaking, Okay. When there is snow outside I work outside I go to work, don't take the day off. And the end of the year, hang out with the kids, you what they do on school days at the end of the year, watching movies. Always crying for more money this is getting ridiculous, they're getting one point five million dollars more and we have to take into consideration that the State Legislature is drunk with power. We have at least on Alderman on this Board who is also a Senator, who has fifty pieces of legislation, you can't possibly know what's on all fifty pieces of legislation, but almost every single one has a fiscal note. Here we are socked with a sixty-percent increase by the State. So please take that into consideration. Thank you very much for you kindness.

Jesse Martineau, 48 Oakdale Ave., Manchester, New Hampshire (re: Highway) stated:

All right I'm happy I get to follow that. I am State Representative from Ward 9 Manchester, and I'm actually here to talk about a discussion you guys all had in reference to the Highway Department on Tuesday. And, some specifically some of the phrases I would use in that discussion and I know its going to be a game of semantics, but I do think in this particular case that the semantics are very important. You guys had a long discussion about or not there would be layoffs at the Highway Department, and do I hear correct the currents dispatchers will not be laid off, if this budget goes through. However, I think you know the phrase that were just trying to manage the attrition rate is not entirely accurate. I think these, these positions that will disappear have very real impact. I will give you an example, because my father is a thirty three-year, has thirty-three years with the Highway Department

and he is one of those dispatchers who would be cut, if this budget were to go through. And as a result of that you would be forced to take a position at a substantial lower pay, a lower position at a substantial lower pay, and as a result you would also take somebody at that lower position and bump them so they would be forced to therefore take a position as substantially lower pay. So to me it's a lot more than just managing a rate of attrition, we're affecting the lives of many very good city employees, if this budget were to go through, and that is something we need to make clear. Now I'm not saying I'm opposed to tax cuts at all, I think tax cuts are very necessary, but I think we do need to lay on the table and just say there are consequences of this tax cut. And one of these consequences are, that there will be a loss of services. I know the phrase transfer of services was used and that's correct but it seems to me that if you cut a service position that you will be cutting services. So I think it is important to state, that if we are going to have a tax cut that these tax cuts do have consequences and they are very real consequences that we talked about, the Highway Department. And I just want to have one more aspect that was mentioned during the debate is the thought that we should just try this, and you know we should try going to the answering service when it comes to handling the phones as the dispatchers roles at the Highway Department. Try it for a year and see if it works and if not we can bring the dispatchers back, and that would be something that I am completely fine with, I would completely agree with if this wasn't something that we have tried before.

We know for fact it doesn't work because it has been attempted and did not work. So it seems to me like we do not have to go through a whole other year to see it doesn't work, we already know that. So again I would like to conclude by saying it's real important that when we have this discussion, that when we have this debate we make sure, we call things as they are, we may not have layoffs but we will be impacting many of Manchester's families with this budget and that there will be a loss of services if this budget goes through. Thank you, your Honor.

Robert Tarr, 318 Spruce Street, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: School) stated:

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen and Mayor. I'm an elementary and middle school parent. I come to you tonight to ask that we support the full one hundred fifty million for the School Board that they have proposed. And I want to read some facts to you tonight that are very true and very apparent. The first fact is that when we held these deni project committee meetings we held them at middle schools or high schools. The committee that I was on we held at a middle school. Now I can tell you for a fact that I sat in the classroom that for one hundred and eighty days sees no teachers and not student whatsoever. Its vacant the doors are locked and the lights are out. I also saw that middle school where they had parent shadowing day and I was allowed to walk around with my two students, one in sixth grade and on in eight grade. I was appalled to see that within certain classrooms, the students had to share textbooks with one another, because they did not have enough to go around, or to take home when they needed help with extra work. I also saw too, that in my eighth grade, my eight grade student that we resource room, will only allow me to give half a year because of last years budget did not allow for full year of service. So when I say that we support the

hundred and fifty million I do so with compassion and honesty. Many of us who made up of these committees for the dini project were teachers, administrative staff, and parents like myself. We put out with two thousand five hundred dollars, myself I did not even get paid to sit on these committees. I did so, out of compassion. So I hope tonight that you approve and fully fund the one hundred and fifty million for the School Board. I must say before I go though that the one hundred and fifty million does not include the demi proposals, which I understand your Honor that you will not be able to be at the full School Board meeting, because you had budget hearings here, for the departments. The dini project required two point seven million just to implement their plans alone, as above and beyond the one hundred fifty million. We have agreed to continue the work with zero-budget and try to work with these plans as best we can. Thank you.

Diana Sargent, 68 Mast Road, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: school) stated:

Good Evening, Mayor Guinta and Alderman. I'm an educator in Manchester, I work at Hallsville, McDonough and Beech as both music educator and string teacher. And I have worked since two thousand and one, on a weekly basis I work with these children five hundred to seven hundred a week, and I see the benefits that they are. I speak on their behalf, not just as a benefit of enjoyment to their lives which everybody has spoken of tonight which is awesome, because it is true. But also to the benefits of brain learning we're learning so much about the brain. I just read a book called "this is your brain on music" and it can take pictures of brain and it can actually show that music is not just about kinesthetic learning. It is about reading, writing and arithmetic. Your entire brain is lit up when you are doing music. And to aid me in showing you the benefits to reading, writing and arithmetic, I brought the keys to learning. I did not have room for eighty-eight keyboard but I wanted to demonstrate that everyday I see benefits to phonics development when children read lyrics on a board to nursery rhymes and to song we give them they're learning to break down language into phonies. They're learning to rebuild those into words and sentences from which they can glean not just words but sentence structures. They learn about inflection through singing and through this they learn that when voices go up we maybe asking a question and from that when they read in their books they learn to differentiate sentence structures, not just from their books and reading and writing. They need this kinesthetic learning they need the multi sensory experience. Talk about counting and math, when we break down rhythms we're counting we're breaking pieces into fractions I have first graders that understand fractions because they understand that music and rhythms is a ruler for your brain. And when they can break those down it makes everything easier in math. Not just visually but from the auditory sense and when you are doing that in a multi-sensory way your learning at a brain level that is all inclusive for all of life, and reading, writing and arithmetic. I've seen what the test show and what they demonstrate and we do this everyday in music class all the music educators here work to teaching toward the test in reading, writing and arithmetic with music. We do fine motor skills gross motor skills and these children have difficulty jumping rope, they don't have that experience we give them that and from that they learn rhythm they learn motor skills that help they're brain coordinate their

skills that will help them learn math, reading and writing. Fractions, we are given the opportunity as music teachers to give them differentiating learning opportunities while we read them stories about music, and we act them out. We are now creating a music award at our school the kids have all written skits and music of their own creation and their learning to write music and poetry and put that all together all on their own, with the help of their teachers. And we do this every day, these are the keys to learning. The day the music dies so does your child's learning not just an enjoyment but at the base brain level. Thank you.

Grant Hock 95 McCarthy Street, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: School) stated:

Hello. I'm twelve years old and I attend Hillside Middle School. I play percussion and participate in the Hillside band as well as after school jazz band. I have an older brother, Jeffry Hock, who attends Central High, my brother has been playing the clarinet since fifth grade at Webster, at Webster School. To hear my brother play the clarinet and going to the concerts and the Central football games made me want to play to. I couldn't wait to become a fifth grader to join the music program that was offered at Webster. I know that I may not understand everything that goes into putting a large budget together for a school district, but I have been explained that the impact would be the music art and physical education were cut. That is why I wanted to speak to the Board tonight, I won't pretend that going to art, music, and physical education is not fun because it is, it is extremely fun. I know that reading writing and math are all very important subjects, and so is art, music and phys Ed. There are some mornings that I don't feel like going to school but because I know that I'm working on an art project or that Mr. Edmund is counting on me to be at the Jazz band, I want to go and sometimes that's the only reason I want to go to school. Playing an instrument is a talent, I never would have known that I had this talent if it had not been for the music program. I never would have known that I was so artistically talented if it had not been for art and all my art teachers. And, I never would have known that I love soccer if it wouldn't have been for my gym teachers. Seriously, there has to be away to, a way for this Board to come up with a way to always protect these programs, rather than always having us fight to keep them in our schools. Thank you.

Tammy Simmons 142 Parker Street, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: supports budget) stated:

Good evening. I'm also executive director of the New Hampshire advantage coalition. I'm here tonight to speak as a taxpayer. I would like to start by thanking the members of this Board that preliminary voted to approve Mr. Guinta's budget proposal. In doing so, it shows that maybe we are at long last in making progress improving how things are being done at city hall. Rather than spending months hashing and rehashing what to any reasonable person is a very realistic budget, you're moving forward in getting on with the business of governing the city of Manchester. Again, I thank you for this. You have heard from some tonight and I am confident that you will hear from many, many more. That this budget will cut services, especially in the schools. You will hear how the sky is falling, how teachers will get laid off, how we will have to eliminate sports, or how we will have to cut music

programs, and, how we will have to stop bussing. It's the same pitch I heard year after year. Unfortunately, or fortunately depending on how you look at it, it's just that, it's at pitch. It's a scare tactic. Last year the final budget amount for the schools was around forty five million dollars. More than Mayor Guinta proposed less than they said they could live without. The sky did not fall, teachers were not laid off, and the high school bands played on. This year will have a one million-dollar surplus by the time school years done, go figure. How could that have happened? I thought they couldn't manage. Many speakers tonight would like people to believe there are cuts to the school budget. This year proposed budget give the schools more than they received last year. This is at a time when we've had a six point three percent decrease in students. I am confident that the schools can find efficiencies, just like you guys had on the city side. And just like the taxpayers have had to do each and every November for the last seven years, when they received their property tax bills with yet another tax increase. This budget offers the taxpayers of Manchester a modest point five three percent cut in their taxes. What I'd like to see more? Sure, but I am grateful that Mayor Guinta is doing everything he can to stop the run away train of tax increases, year after year after year. Thank you.

Harriet Bingel, 154 Head Street, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: Library) stated:

Thank you so much for the opportunity to bring my concerns to all of you this evening. My concern this evening is, the library on the West Side. I'm a little concerned that budget constrains they make take into consideration closing this very important community resource. We all want good business, for those of us good jobs, we need to make sure that they have a good pool of well educated people, and a library is a very important resource in obtaining that education to keep people traditional and non-traditional students sharp. Books are good. Have a great evening.

Roger Wilkins 336A Kennard Rd., Manchester, New Hampshire (re: supports budget) stated:

Good evening, Aldermen, Mayor. I reside in many places including South Carolina, New York and Massachusetts. And, I have come back home to Manchester. I come back because every where else they lack a little Yankee common sense. After seven years of tax increases, I'm concerned about those who oppose the Mayor's balanced budget. If not for this, then why should people continue to live here. Why should they continue to invest in a vibrant community, if they're afraid that budget is not going to be balanced. They're told that the sky is in fact falling every year, why would someone invest in the community. I simply urge passage of the budget I fully, fully taken a look at it and, I tell you that I am for you guys, and appreciate the opportunity. You know the city's executives, they can just talk decisions that are difficult, thank you for your courage to protect all taxpayers. Thank you.

Jerry Thibodeau, 103 Bow Street, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: supports budget, against highway) stated:

Good Evening your Honor, ladies and Gentlemen of the Aldermentic Board. First I thing I want to do is I want to apologize for anybody who feels that they have to insult you in order

to get their point across, it's not necessary. Second, I'm here as a taxpayer and as businessman. I don't pretend to know how your budget is figured out or how it works and all the ins and outs of it. I know I have a business, were I have one hundred forty-three carpenters on the payroll and my budget isn't easy to figure out. But, I do know that you're charged of the frugal distribution of the taxpayer's funds that you collect every year. I also know that the Highway Department is a big disappointment to me they are asking for more money, but yet not too long ago, I'm driving to work and there is a street sweeper going down the street suppose to be sweeping. Well the brooms are turning, but they are all up in the air, the dirt is still on ground, why isn't the dirt being picked up? Job security? I don't know. Another time there was an incident in front of my house where the rainwater was washing away part of the street. So I called the Highway Department and asked them to come and take a look at it, they did, they said they're going to repair it. Couple days later a nice big orange city truck pulls up four men in it, one driving three other men. Three men jump out, one grabs a broom, one grabs a shovel another grabs a tamper. The truck driver stayed in the truck. Well the guy with the broom started brooming, and there was guy with the shovel who picked everything up and threw it in back of the truck. They took some asphalt threw it down, the guy with the broom, broomed it in place, then the guy with the tamper, tampered down. Truck driver is still in the truck. They all get in the truck and drive away. If I ran my business like that, I would be in trouble with the bank and it wouldn't take long. Then you have other departments that are suppose to be paying it all the way. Parks and Recs, parking they are suppose to be paying their own way. Figure it out so they do pay their own way. We have so many people here speaking about the School Department. My gosh! they have an increase this year not a decrease. West High, has how many students not coming back next year? Thank you very much ladies and gentlemen, I trust that you will make the right decisions.

John Desrocher, 8 Kearsarge Street, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: School) stated:
I am here tonight representing the West High School Music Supporters organization. I am not here to criticize or chastise any member of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. You have a difficult job to do, and I understand that, my concern is with the arts program primarily in the city schools. They are usually the first ones that are cut or damaged. I've been involved with the music program nineteen years. I have seen how in shape our equipments go, our equipment not be repaired or be delayed or not receiving instruments, because of cuts. The Arts are a very fundamental part of our lives. Seal, the city of Manchester, the portrait of former Alderman Cashin, are all Art. Where would be without that art? Many of our students continue on in the programs, they become music educators, they become music performers. We have students that have come back and worked within our programs as volunteers to help with the music program. That feeling was instilled on what they learned in the music program in the arts and the choral organizations. Manchester has a native son that we should all be proud of, he is now the Drum Major of the United States Marine Corps Band, the President's own. He is the product of a Manchester School system graduated from Manchester School Central. That is quite an honor for that young man, and for our

programs. Where would he be without the arts? I would like to say at your next family function your wedding, a banquet or even a political rally. Where are those musicians taught and trained? In our public school system. We ask to please consider the budget and help us keep our programs in tack. Thank you.

Kathy Staub, 374 Laurel Street, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: budget progress, lack of information school budget) stated:

Good Evening. I am please to be able to come here and speak with you tonight.

First I would like to address the Mayor and say “ I understand that you would us to think of you as our CEO, well, I would like you to think of me as one of your stock holders. And I think that given the decline in civic engagements that are going on in this country I think you need to think of everyone in this room as an engage stockholder and a vested person in a major stockholder. So take into consideration what they have been saying tonight. The first thing that I would like to talk to you as a stockholder about is transparency in budgeting. Last year there was a lot talk about on transparency in budgeting and I said “Great, that’s terrific Alleluia finally we are going to figure out where the money is going and we’re going to be able to tell what it is we are paying for. So you can imagine my disappointment when I came to the Mayor’s budget presentation and I received this. Now, a lot of the numbers I was looking for aren’t on that, and some of the numbers that are there I don’t even know what they are. Now, I would like you to contrast that now when, Mayor Streeter, presented his budget in February to the people of Nashua this is what they had access to. It’s three hundred pages, you can find out how much the Building Department spends on light bulbs, how much they spend to the Police Department spends to fuel their vehicles. This I know it sounds ironic, but this is a transparent budget document, this is not, crazy maybe but not transparent. So I would charge all of you next year, whoever is in charge next year to provide the people of Manchester with much better information about the budget process and where our money is going. I don’t think the people in Nashua are lot happier to pay taxes than we are but at least they know where the money is going. If they can do it in Nashua, we can do it here. The second thing I would like to talk to you about is that this budget, I think it’s short sided, I think what we really need is a long-term plan for growing this city. What is our long-term plan for growing in this city? What are we doing to attract quality employers to this city? And how are we going to grow our commercial tax base and make those properties more attractive to employers. And how are we going to bring young families into our city, which are vital for the future of the city. My family has been year for one hundred years, and so what we need are good schools, and I am a member of the district improvement monitoring team, and we do have a plan. This is something we haven’t had before but among the things we need are we need to buy the textbooks to support the new curriculum and there isn’t enough money in this budget to do that. We also need to provide professional development for the teachers and I know some people think the only good administrator is a dead administrator, but the teachers that have worked on these proposals believe that need to have some support. And I appreciate the opportunity that you have given me to speak

tonight and I hope you will reconsider this budget and do what's best for the future of our city. Thank you.

Peter Capano, 354 Ash Street, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: MCTV) stated:

Mr. Mayor, Board of Aldermen, thank you for allowing me a few minutes of your time tonight. I'm here to speak in support of MCTV, and you folks know what MCTV does, but I want to reinforce that and I want to say I see it as a resource really like no other in the City of Manchester. You may know that it's reaching fifteen years of age this year and I have been there close to the beginning if not right at the beginning. I've done shows at the Highway Department for the Highway Department, on recycling, on trash routes. I've done shows just last summer for the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission trying to get the region to look more as a region in planning issues down the road. I've even done shows produce shows for the Hibernians and St. Patrick's Day parade preview shows. And, it's amazing to me how much feedback I get from various places all around the city as I make my way around the city. As many of you know I'm the chief inspector at the Highway Department, and I'm on the roads a whole heck of a lot, in my fair city. It is truly a resource like no other as that feedback tells me. And then the other thing having been affiliated with the television station for so long I have seen it grow and I have seen it kind of get constricted in its local now. And I would encourage you to look hard at being ablating them to find a bigger, better more suitable location, so that they can continue to grow and provide that resource to the citizens of Manchester. Thank you.

Matthew Redmond, 506 Notre Dame Ave, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: school) stated:

I am a musical educator at Hillside Middle School, and I want to make and I will be brief I'll make a simple point the success in life success in music is success in life. This past weekend I had the extreme honor on serving on the band committee at the New Hampshire Music Educators Association all state festival and its spring national conference. And, looking at some of the most intelligent, punctual and wonderful students from all over the state. Thirty-nine of whom, roughly ten percent represented Manchester from the three high schools in the chorus band and orchestra. And of that thirty-nine eight of them ranked number one in the state. So I think that makes a tremendous statement as the quality and the importance of our music program throughout the city. And I am not a native of Manchester, I am an import from Massachusetts. And, I came from a program that was slashed starting at the elementary level. And I can't stress the importance enough of having a cohesive big picture program a music program as in any program to insure the success of the students, and again the success in music and the success in life. Thank you for your time.

Heather Thibeault, 230 Wells Street, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: Highway) stated:

Good evening everyone. I am a taxpayer and the parent of a child entering the Manchester school district, so definitely understand the plight of everyone here for educational purposes, but I am here today to discuss the position elimination at the Highway Department. I do understand the need for a budget and I do understand the need for occasional cut and as a

taxpayer I definitely don't want to pay more taxes. But I would like to know that the taxes that I am paying are paying the salaries for workers who go out and work everyday and break their backs to make sure that our cities are clean, and are taken care of and our streets are plowed. I would rather not see my money going to primarily suits that are not subject to the heat or the cold or the wind or the snow or the rain on a daily basis. Frank Thomas, said on April 10th meeting that he would cut himself but he would bleed and then he laughed it off. Well, maybe not Frank Thomas, but I, I know that there is at least one example of a position being cut. At the drop off, the drop off position that is being done away with is being combined with the recycling coordinator. Now, if that happens, the recycling coordinator would then be responsible for plowing at the drop off, mowing the lawn at the drop off, running the scales at the drop off, covering for bathroom break for the scale operator. All things that she is not qualified to do. So who is going to be doing those things? Now, even if that position does take on those roles I know of one thing you want to cut budget, she is suppose to be doing the well water testing. I know for a fact that she does not personally do these things, I know because I brought my husband to the emergency room last year when he got blood poisoning from performing those services himself. So I'm sure UNH environmental science students would be willing to do it, probably free of charge, for the learning experience. That is just on example. There are many positions that are being cut or moved or however you want to word it. But dispatch, drop off the Traffic Department all of those things are important all of the positions that you are going to be doing away with have long term effect not on only the family but on the public. If you go to the drop off and there is nobody running the scales because they needed to take a bathroom break. On a Saturday morning in the middle of the summer how long are going to want to wait. So I realize that you may need to a make budget cuts I'm just asking that perhaps you reevaluate exactly who is what is being cut. Thank you.

Dave Johnson, 115 Amory Street, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: library, budget) stated: Greetings Ladies and Gentlemen. I actually grew up in the Midwest and moved here about twenty years ago. I've been living in Manchester for most of that time since then, at various addresses most recently on Amory Street. I originally came over because I had heard ugly rumors about closing the West Side Library. I would say simply think that is a penny wise and pound foolish idea, if it comes to pass. But, more generally what I would like to say is something a bit broader. My own personal back ground, "by the way I apologize for my appearance, my scheduled got jammed up today and did not have time to get cleaned up." But my background is engineering, software engineering, and I listen to the debates about budgets in various forms of them, news on television and in print and what not. And, in my line of work I basically get paid to find cheap reliable solutions to problems. Saying in my business is a good engineering is lazy and cheap. Well why work hard if you can do it easily. Why spend money if you can do inexpensively. So in general I am sympathetic to the ideas of finding ways to cut cost. I am not sympathetic with the idea in losing quality of service in doing so and I'm thirty years of experience in the commercial and high tech world, convinces me that there are a lot of opportunities that people will find if they look harder.

That's a pretty vague and ambiguous and three minutes I'm not going to elaborate very much on that. But one time what I did hear this evening that I found disappointing was the criticism of Mayor Guinta. I don't if it's true or not from my own knowledge, but that he had signed up to the Mayor's initiative I guess it is on protecting the climate which I was I think It's the same program I was reading about news week just last night, that something like four hundred thirty five city Mayors across the country have signed up to do something about climate change even though the Federal Government under the Busch Administration does not do very much at this point. The interesting was those cities are saving money hand over fist by implementing some of the good ideas that are sitting out there. Energy efficiency being the most obvious one but cutting down air pollution reduces the admission to the emergency rooms and other problems. And there are a large number of knockout effects on some of these seemingly small or seemingly vague ideas. And I'm a little distressed to see people sitting here tonight doing, well we've got to do this we've got to do that, well I'm wondering if there aren't other thirds ways in many of these cases to solve the problems. So given that I only have thirty seconds left and you've probably heard the general idea well enough and I will leave it at that. Thank you for the time and at some point maybe I will find some way to communicate some more of these ideas and details. Thank you very much.

Theresa Bianchi, 196 Currier Drive, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: supports budget)
stated:

Good evening. I have been a resident of Manchester for twenty-two years and my children have been born and gone through the school system here. Still have on left. And I am also a taxpayer. I speak tonight in support of the Mayor's budget but also in protest to, to the school budget. That has, I got the letter, a copy of the letter that the School Board wrote in response to the budget, and I was kind of disturb, not kind of, I was very offended. That every time there is hard work needed to be done on the budget it is our children who are suffered, who face cuts in programs and education services. I think it's important in light of the continued tax increases that we are facing as a city. That we need to address where our schools has grown and become as well as all of our city services, so that we find there is not waste and that we don't affect the welfare of our children in the education system. To say we need to cut athletics and music and all these other programs is really out of order. And so, and what I have seen happen in the twenty-years I have lived here and especially in the last ten years since the State Supreme Court mandated that all schools in our state should be financed equitably. Especially for mandatory rose. That our school budget has grown tremendously over those years. But even more so is our administrative services in the school system have grown from being just a superintendent to now having three assistant superintendent and a whole staff below them. And hiring different positions like a district wide athletic director and so forth. And I wonder why is it that those positions exist at the expense of our children, having the experience of a full well rounded education. So I support the Mayor in his call for an even not a tax increase this year and at the same time ask the School Board readdress what is really important in this budget. Thank you.

Ben Kaufman 180 W. Clarke Street, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: MCTV) stated:

Good evening Ladies and Gentlemen. I am a proud member of City of New Hampshire it's just a nonprofit organization that works with the middle school youth of this fine city. I'm here today to speak on behalf of MCTV. I've had the privilege of working with them through our Young Heroes Program they attended and recorded our young heroes opening day and they also do filming and showcasing the work that we do at Hillside Middle School. And I know they have also committed to showcase XYZYGY, which is our big national convention that is taking place in Manchester this June. And I just want to speak towards what they provide to not only city of New Hampshire but also the youth that we work with. Today in our society, unfortunately a lot of the media we see of youth is kind of, just a negative aspect we're inundated with the negative images, negative state has of what the youth are doing. Unfortunate that leaves very little space in the headlines for the positive things that they do. You can't get the show case the positive things such as eighty nine young people coming out Saturdays and five days a week to do community service, to give back to their community. MCTV allows us to showcase that. I know they are coming to adopt a rock service that is happening this Saturday and they are going to be showcasing that and it goes a long way for you to, you know sometimes feels though outcast on the outside at risk you. It goes a long way to be able to see themselves on TV and to build this notion of social path in giving back. MCTV provides that for them for people to see the positive things that you are contributing and they are able to see themselves being recognized as a vital member of a community. That is one of the very fine things MCTV does so I would like to encourage tonight to continue your support for them and all the great work that they do. So thank you very much for your time.

Rep Lily Mesa 316 Bartlett Street, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: MCTV, School) stated:

Good evening Mayor and Aldermen. Thank you for this opportunity tonight. I'm glad I do not have to work till midnight to speak tonight, pleasure. I urge you to reconsider this budget and provide the schools with the necessary finance to keep all of our kids in school because they need to be able to participate in the special programs and the sports and arts in order to be successful. I think, I believe that we your were working on this budget you left some part of our community out the kids from the lower income families, and new comers and children from the minorities. They need these programs to be successful they need to enroll in extracurricular activities to improve their lives. Also that they need the library services because most of these kids the only resources they have to educate themselves to do homework. And if we consider the high dropout that we have in Manchester, I don't believe that this budget is being sensitive in this issue. Also I do not agreed that the kids now are going to have to walk two miles and are not going to be able to take the bus. I don't think that's safe and for kids that are not from here that are newcomers consider the weather probably have walk by themselves because the parents are working I don't think that's are prepared for the kids. And about MCTV, they record they meetings they keep in Manchester informed of all their things that are happening in the city. From government, shows different languages community services. For instance we have a new show now opportunity,

opportunity. Studies in English and Spanish is the only show at this time that we have and I watch it and many people of the Spanish speaking community watch it. MCTV is a great opportunity for us to express our concerns and our cultural issues to a community. Please remember that we my notity in Manchester are active members of this community as well. Thank you.

Kit Reno 2124 Elm Street, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: against budget) stated:

Good evening. I am the co-president of the friends of Stark Park. We are community organization that was formed to offer support and encouragement in the restoration and revitalization of a city park that had fallen on difficult times. We know how stretch, excuse me, over the pass two and half years we have worked closely with the Parks Department. We know how stretched they have been in providing the manpower to provide the basic mowing, pruning and maintenance of the park. They're current many jobs left undone in the park because of the shortages of manpower. An example; the park has dozens of trees with huge broken limbs hanging in the trees on other limbs that anytime can fall on families, individuals using the park. Safety is our most primary concern in our affiliation with doing this work and cuts to the budget would truly jeopardize this park and others in the city. We are not in recession or even in down turn in our economy. The types of cut that I see that are being proposed to the parks the highway and the schools would be merited under those sorts of circumstances. But not just if we want to return a small, a tax cut to the citizens of Manchester. The long term detrimental effects of these proposed cuts far out way the relatively small reduction each of us would see. Unfortunately, here in New Hampshire all we have is a property tax. Until we have some other kind of a broad base tax, we will not be able to pay all the requirements of our city and our state. Perhaps it is time to begin looking at some other way of funding. Maybe then we can give the citizens of Manchester their reduction in their property taxes that they so need and should get. Thank you.

Nicholas Ambrogi 544 N. Adams Street, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: school) stated:

Hi, I'm a student at Central High School. I am here to talk about something perhaps a little less tangible than dollar figures that the budget, being propose tonight. That is something that is very important and should be considered in making the budget. Something that made a huge impression on me when I arrived at Central last fall, was that our principal John Rist talking about the large diversity at Central and how it makes our school a great place. Which is something I now agree with very strongly. I also came to the realization that this diversity is not only manifested in the wide range of ethnic diversity in the student body, but also in the wide diversity of the programs offered to it's students, particularly the arts and music programs and the athletics that coming in question in your budget. I am a member of Central's Band and Jazz Band, and the music program is tremendously important to me. Music has been a huge part of my life since I started playing the trumpet, fifth grade. And I spend a lot of time practicing the trumpet. And to have the music program cut would be something would very negatively impact my school experience. I'm also a member of the ski team and lacrosse team, and sports are also very important to me as well. Taking

athletics and music out of Central High School, would be taking away the diversity that makes Central a great place. So if you take away the diversity from Central, Central isn't Central anymore and my high school isn't great. Thank you.

Leroy Derricott 269 Clay Street, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: MCTV) stated:
Member of the Board I am here supporting MCTV. MCTV has been around for fifteen years. They support sporting and meeting events such as this one. They also keep the community updated on current events. I love the show "Opportunity". The show gives opportunity for business' to give their face and recognition out there. MCTV is also looking for a location, I believe with the Boards help that they would be able to. And I believe that MCTV in the near future and now we would need them more than ever. With the help of the Board, I think you guys should help them find a new home, and we need MCTV. Thank you.

William Tickler Ward 1 Manchester, New Hampshire (re: supports budget) stated:
Good Evening, Frank Mayor, Frank Guinta and Aldermen. Again I received my tax bill this year and of course I was thinking that once we did this re-evaluation, everybody would be paying they're fair share. But, again I find in going through your tax cards there are a lot of houses out there that I feel that they're under evaluated. Now, I guess I have no choice but to pay my tax bill as I received it, but I feel the other people in the city should also be paying their fair share. I express to you in the pass my disappointment in this and I think maybe there are some adjustments that could be made there to help resolve this situation. And I am in favor of your budget for this year, so hopefully that we can this resolved and get it passed and get on with the other business that we have that is needed in the city of Manchester. Thank you.

Ben Martineau, 48 Oakdale Avenue, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: Highway) stated:
Those people who know me I would rather have my teeth pulled than be up here speaking in public, but nevertheless here I am. One of the dispatchers at the Highway Department effected by the proposed bumping, layoff, whatever the terminology is. I would like to state for the record by daughters concern I'm too old to go outside and work. Think I will be alright. But as a thirty three veteran of the Highway Department all I can say is when someone calls with a problem there is not answering service you can hire, regardless how professional they are, are not going to be able to answer those calls like we can. Of the four dispatchers here presently three of us have more than thirty-years and the other has more that twenty. If you want not affect services don't go to an answering machine. It's been tried before like others have said and services were affected, that's the reality. You all say Services matters well services are affected. And Mr. Mayor I did see your thing in the paper being a CEO and when I think of CEO's, I think of Mr. Lathem Rodmand and Mr. Kaslowski from TYCO and I get a little scared. So this is a municipality which I think is a little different than a private company and I don't think the same kind of tactics apply. I pay

taxes too and my taxes went up significantly I don't like paying taxes but I think, I know I provide a service that is necessary and I do it in a professional manner. Thank you.

Matthew Robinson, 351 Hanover Street, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: supports budget) stated:

I would like say that I believe music is important and I think art is important so is education and athletics. The roads are important those are all very important. But after so many people speaking on how those things need to be more funding on the budget I want to be one of the few voices that say there are people out there that understand that not all that is good need to be given money through this budget. Thank you.

Jim Cronin 96 Walnut Street, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: supports budget) stated:

Good Evening my name was called before, but I had promise my wife before I left the house that want to speak up and not get into trouble. But the main things with me is I drive the streets of Manchester every day of the week and I see such waste of money and my main interest is I bought a house six years ago on a special program by the US government for low income people. I am in danger of losing that house because of taxes. If my money was well spent I would not mind, but I see such waste out there. Every day of the week, it wouldn't take much off my tax bill granted, but every cent that I spend I have to watch where it goes, and how to use it. And don't think it's being done in the city. A lot better job can be done. I have been in the Union Leader a couple of times complaining about the tax problem but nothing comes of it, just relieves my tension. Thank you

Paula Wakefield Larchmont Rd.Ward2 Manchester, New Hampshire, (re: School) stated:

I would to speak in favor of the budget proposed by the School Board for the following reasons; our School Board committee was elected by the taxpayers of Manchester representing the taxpayers of Manchester. They are intimately involved in the financial management of the School district. And they come with bearing philosophies and opinions and quite frankly they are challenged to find common grounds on many subjects. But they did work together to come up with a budget that was less than they originally felt they wanted to present. They cut back to try to honor the Mayor's suggestion and request that they cut the budget. And what I don't understand is how all of those people can be wrong. Thank you.

Mike Rochelle 116 Taylor Street Manchester, New Hampshire (re: supports promoting, City) stated:

Good Evening I am also a State Representative for the district. I'm proud of the fact that the State of New Hampshire does not have state income tax or state sales tax. However, that falls upon the property owners to pay the bills. Now with that being said the property owners in my district who are hurting and they have difficulty paying taxes. There's other people in my district that can afford the taxes. Personally I don't want to pay a tax and I do not want to pay a tax increase, but I want to invest in this city. The way to attract businesses

to come into this city and for new residents to come in and help pay the bills, is to promote this city as a positive city and as a city that invest in it's schools in it's roads and in it's infrastructure. And that's the only way we are going to attract other business' and other people to come here and we need to promote the city and to increase our tax base and I think in the end we're going to be appreciative of it and our taxes will decrease overall if we make the investment now. Thank you.

James Italian, 25 Readry Street, Manchester, New Hampshire (re: School) stated:

Good Evening, I'm also a teacher in the school district. What we're not talking about is the fact that it's not that the school is getting more money this year, its just that our cost have gone up and the amount of money were getting offered isn't meeting those cost that are going up. That's the real problem here, it's not that we're getting cuts getting cuts in programs because we are not getting the amount of money needed to meet those programs needs. That's all I have to say.

Mayor Guinta advises that all wishing to speak having been heard, the comments presented shall be taken under consideration with actions by the Board and on motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Garrity, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk